

Application No. 10/692,401
Amendment dated January 9, 2008
Reply to Final Office Action of October 9, 2007

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant has reviewed and considered the Final Office Action mailed on October 9, 2007, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 1-16 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, claim 18 was previously cancelled, and no claims are amended or added; as a result, claims 17 and 19-23 are now pending in this application.

§ 102 Rejection of the Claims

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Drasler, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,241,763).

While Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections, in the interest of expediting a Notice of Allowance for pending claims 17 and 19-23 (indicated to be allowed) Applicant has elected to cancel claims 1-16 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 17 and 19-23.

Claims 2-11 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claims, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 236-0122 to facilitate prosecution of this matter.

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR §1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being transmitted to United States Patent and Trademark Office facsimile number (511) 273-8300 on this 7th day of January, 2008.

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Respectfully Submitted,
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